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Claims:

What is claimed is:

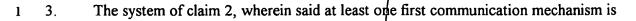
A system having first and second processes residing on first and second computers used with backup or restore operations, wherein said first and said second computers are in communication with a data storage system on a network, said system comprising:

at least one first communication mechanism residing on both said first and second computers for facilitating communications between said first and second processes over said network;

a second communication mechanism residing on both said first and second computers for facilitating communication between said first and second processes through said data storage system; and

means, within said first and second processes, for allowing said first and second processes to determine whether a call from said first and second processes is for first or second communication mechanism.

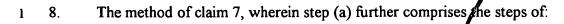
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said first and second processes are part of a backup or restore process.



- 2 a network socket.
- 1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein said second communication mechanism is a data
- 2 storage system socket, and said data storage system socket allows information to be
- 3 transferred from said first process to said second process through said data storage
- 4 system.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said backup and restore operations are capable of
- backing up and restoring information from file system or database applications.

A method for assisting with backup and restore operations in a computer system,

- 2 the method comprising the steps of:
- 3 (a) establishing at least one first connection over a network, between first and
- 4 second processes residing on different computers; and
- 5 (b) establishing, in parallel with establishing said at least one first connection, a
- 6 second connection, through a data storage system, between said first and said second
- 7 processes.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein step (a) comprises the step of:
- creating a pair of communication mechanisms on a designated port.



- 2 requesting with one member of said communication mechanism pair a connection
- 3 to said other member of said communication mechanism pair; and
- in response to said connection request, accepting said connection request.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:
- 2 creating a second pair of communication mechanisms on the designated port,
- wherein said second pair of communication mechanisms is used for transferring a different
- 4 type of information than would be transferred over said first pair of communication
- 5 mechanisms.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:
- requesting with one member of said second pair of communication mechanisms, a
- 3 connection to said other member of said second pair of communication mechanisms; and
- 4 in response to said connection request, accepting said connection request.
- 1 11. The method of glaim 6, wherein step (b) comprises the steps of:
- creating a third pair of communication mechanisms on a second designated port.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:
- 2 requesting with one member of said third pair of communications mechanisms a
- 3 connection to said other member of said second pair of communications mechanisms; and
- 4 in response to said connection request, accepting said connection request.

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1	13.	The method of claim 12, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:
2		receiving information about a group of resources in said data storage system
3		in response to receiving information about said group of resources, creating a

- fourth pair of communication mechanisms on a dynamically allocated port; and
- 5 connecting said fourth pair of communication mechanisms to each other through
- 6 said data storage system.
- 1 14. The method of claim 6, wherein said backup and restore operations are for backing up and restoring information from a file system application.
 - 15. A method for assisting with backup and restore operations in a computer system, the method comprising:
 - establishing a connection, over a network, between a first process and a second process residing on different computers;
 - receiving information about a dynamically allocated port over the established connection;
- establishing a second connection over the network, on the dynamically allocated
- 8 port, between said first and second processes;
- identifying resources on a data storage devices to be used in order to transfer information through said data storage device; and
- establishing a connection between said first and second processes through said data storage system.



16. The method of claim 15, wherein said backup and restore applications are used in

conjunction with a database application.

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